

It will doubtless be regretted by some that Lord Avebury did not adopt a systematic sequence from the lowest forms to the highest and enter upon the principles of classification sufficiently to show the correlation of the increasing complexity of the structures and functions described with the higher position accorded the plant in the scheme. This, however, might introduce much debatable matter, and is not included in the scope of the book.

Upon another much-debated subject his opinion is of interest in view of recent discussions. "In fact, it is becoming more and more a surprise how the older botanists can have regarded species as fixed and invariable. . . . It may almost be said that, as a rule, when plants are studied under dissimilar conditions, or in various parts of their area, they will be found to present considerable differences, so that, as our knowledge advances, the definition and limits of species become, not more easy and definite, as might perhaps have been expected, but more and more difficult and debatable." This conclusion will hardly be conceded by those who believe that a wide range of individual differences is by no means inconsistent with sharply defined specific limits, nor will it be too favorably received by the believers in the new doctrine of mutation.

The work will be hailed as a valuable contribution to a branch of botanical investigation which receives a smaller share of attention than its fascinations would lead one to expect.

C. B. ROBINSON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 9, 1906

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P. M., at the American Museum of Natural History, with President Rusby in the chair. Sixteen persons were present. After the minutes of December 12 were read and approved, the following names were proposed for membership :

Miss Sara Robinson, 120 West 24th St., N. Y. City.

Miss Lucy J. Crosson, 215 West 44th St., N. Y. City.

The annual reports of the treasurer, secretary, corresponding secretary, editor, and the editor of *TORREYA* were then read and placed on file. The committees reported progress. No report was rendered by the committee on admissions or the committee on finance.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President, Dr. H. H. Rusby ; vice-presidents, Prof. Edward S. Burgess, Prof. L. M. Underwood ; recording secretary, Dr. C. Stuart Gager ; corresponding secretary, Dr. John K. Small ; editor, Dr. John Hendley Barnhart ; treasurer, Dr. Carlton C. Curtis ; associate editors : Dr. Alexander W. Evans, Dr. Tracy E. Hazen, Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Dr. W. A. Murrill, Dr. Herbert M. Richards, Anna Murray Vail.

A request from Mrs. E. G. Britton for a grant of \$100 from the Herrman fund to be used in illustrating new species of mosses from the Southern States and the West Indies was read and the application approved by the Club.

Miss Crosson and Miss Robinson were elected to membership, and the resignations of Mr. T. H. Kearney, Jr., and Dr. Voelkel were read and approved. The Club then adjourned until the next stated meeting.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Professor Hugo de Vries has accepted an invitation to deliver an address in Philadelphia in April in connection with the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin by the American Philosophical Society.

Mr. Homer D. House, who was a graduate student in botany in Columbia University from 1902 to 1904, and has been of late an assistant in the U. S. National Herbarium, is now associate professor of botany and bacteriology in the Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina.